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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8904

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 1026

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 4

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SUMMARY: ACTIVITY ON THE INTERNAL SCENE CONTINUED RATHER LIGHT AGAIN THIS WEEK WITH RELATIVELY FEW IDENTIFIED LEADERSHIP TURNOUTS. THE SUCCESSION ISSUE WAS A FOCUS OF ATTENTION AS MEDIA MENTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMBINATION OF "OLD, MIDDLE -AGED, AND YOUNG" INCREASED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN CONTINUED TO MAKE RIPPLES IN PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITIES , BUT MOST OF THE ATTENTION SEEMS FOCUSED ON PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY EDUCATED YOUTH. ON THE EXTERNAL SIDE, PRC MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED SIGNS OF CONTINUED US RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN A STRONG WESTERN DEFENSE CAPABILITY WHILE KEEPING UP ATTACKS ON SOVIET ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS IN AFRICA. SEVERAL NCNA ARTICLES HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THE PROBLEMS BESETTING TAIWAN. END SUMMARY

1. INTERNAL SCENE

PEKING APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO ADJUST TO THE LOSS OF PREMIER CHOU WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE IDENTIFIED LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY AT THE CENTER. EXPECTED PARTY PLENUM AND NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS' SESSION S REMAIN PREDICATBLE, BUT UNMENTIONED
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BY THE CHINESE, WITH A LOCAL SOURCE MERELY ASSERTING THAT THEY WILL OCCUR IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. THE SAME SOURCE FURTHER ASSERTS THAT COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND "OLD, MIDDLE-AGED, AND YOUNG" COMBINES WILL TAKE OVER THE MANTLE FROM PREMIER CHOU. MAJOR CONFERENCES IN THE PROVINCES HAVE INVOLVED SEVERAL PROVINCIAL FIRST SECRETARIES -- UP UNTIL ABOUT 19 JANUARY -- WITH A "LEARN FROM TACHAI" SESSION IN ANHWEI PRIVIDING GREATER DETAILS OF LOCAL PLANNING TO

ACCOMPLISH AGRICULTURAL GOALS. CONFIDENTIAL

2. THE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO RATE MEDIA ATTENTION AND SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION ON PROVINCIAL CAMPUSES, BUT THE EXCITEMENT WITH IT GENERATED INITIALLY IN LATE-NOVEMBER/DECEMBER IS ALL BUT GONE (WR 3), AND CENTER MEDIA SEEM INTENT TO DEMONSTRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CURRENT CROP OF CULTURAL-REVOLUTION-TRAINED STUDENTS IN PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC AND PRODUCTION ADVANCES. CHAIRMAN MAO'S TWO 1965 POEMS RELEASED ON JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR ARE RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WITH THEIR CALL FOR HARD WORK AND SELF-SACRIFICE A PROMINENT THEME. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

3. PROMOTING REVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSORS

SEVERAL RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLES HAVE URGED THAT MORE YOUNG CADRES BE BROUGHT INTO RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS. USING THE IMAGE OF RELAY RACERS PASSING THE BATON, ONE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION MUST BE GIVEN A RUNNING START BEFORE IT IS FORCED TO TAKE OVER COMPLETELY. MUCH OF THIS ATTENTION SEEMS TO BE DIRECTED AT OLDER CADRES WHO LOOK DOWN ON THE YOUNGER GENERATION AND MAY BE PROMPTED BY THE RELATIVIZATION THAT WITH THE RECENT DEATHS OF KANG SHENG AND CHOU EN-LAI, THE TIME IS NOT FAR OFF WHEN CHIA WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF A NEW GROUP OF LEADERS (HONGKONG 991). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

4. PROBLEMS REMAIN IN YUNNAN

TWO RECENT BROADCASTS FROM YUNNAN INDICATE THAT PROVINCE'S REVAMPED LEADERSHIP HAS NOT YET MANAGED TO SOLVE THE MANY PROBLEMS THEY INHERITED (HONG KONG 0761). MAKING THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT DOCUMENTS OF THE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE MUST

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BE IMPLEMENTED, ONE BROADCAST IMPLIES THAT THE LOCAL DIRECTIVES HAVE THE EXPLICIT APPROVAL OF CHAIRMAN MAO. REFERENCES TO SABOTAGE OF CURRENT POLICIES AND TO THE "REMANANT POISON OF LIN BIAO'S REVISIONIST LINE" MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE LEADERSHIP IN YUNNAN IS STILL FACED WITH SOME SORT OF OPPOSITION OR RECALCITRANCE. UNUSUAL REFERENCES A WEEK AGO IN THE YUNNAN PRESS TO USING CHOU EN-LAI AS AN EXAMPLE MAY ALSO REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT TO CAPITALIZE ON THE LATE PREMIER'S POPULARITY IN ORDER TO OVERCOME LOCAL FACTIONALISM. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. EDUCATION CAMPAIGN USES FEATURE FILM

A NEW CHINESE FILM "BREADKING WITH OLD IDEAS" IS BEING SHOWN EXTENSIVELY AS A MEANS OF POPULARIZING THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE IN EDUCATION. IT DEALS WITH EFFORTS DURING AND AFTER THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD TO SET UP A NEW SCHOOL AND PITS STURDY PEASANTS AGAINST REVISIONIST BOURGEOIS INTELLECTUALS. GIVEN A SPECIAL SHOWING LAST WEEK TO PEKING DIPLOMATS, IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY TRAVELERS AS A POPULAR FILM WHICH GENERATES CONSIDERABLE AUDIENCE SUPPORT FOR THE PROLETARIAN HEROES. WHILE THE CONNECTION IS NOT CERTAIN, THE FILM COULD HAVE INSPIRED A YOUNG KWANGSI GIRL TO DISOBEY HER TEACHERS BECAUSE OF THEIR REVISIONIST BEHAVIOR. THE CASE, PUBLICIZED LAST WEEK IN THE KWANGSI PRESS, HAS RESULTED IN HEROINE STATUS FOR THE GIRL AND, NO DOUBT, MORE WORRIES FOR CHINA'S HARD-PRESSED TEACHERS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. THE UNITED STATES

PRC MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE US DURING THE PAST WEEK HAS UNDERSCORED ANEW PEKING'S CONCERN AND TACIT WELCOMING OF SIGNS OF CONTINUED US RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN WESTERN DEFENSE CAPABILITY VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS. ALTHOUGH PRC DOMESTIC MEDIA DID NOT MENTION THE STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE OR THE SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT, PRC OWNED NEWSPAPERS IN HONG KONG WHILE EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE US ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CONSEQUENT OUTCOME OF US-SOVIET CONTENTION, NOTED APPROVINGLY THAT THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE STRESSED THE NEED FOR MAINTAINING A STRONG DEFENSE. IN A SIMILAR MANNER, NCNA'S COVERAGE OF THE FY-77 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS CITED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT AN INCREASE IN FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PROTECTION OF US GLOBAL INTERESTS AND THE MAINTENANCE OF AN OVERALL MILITARY BALANCE WITH THE SOVIETS. A SUBSEQUENT NCNA REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ECONOMIC REPORT TO THE CONGRESS CITED HIS MENTION OF INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AS THE TWO GREATEST CONCERNS THAT CONFRONT THE US, AS WELL AS HIS MORE UPBEAT OBSERVATIONS THAT THE WORST PERIOD OF THIS, THE SHARPEST US RECESSION IN THE
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POST-WWII PERIOD, SEEMS TO HAVE PASSED. UNCLASSIFIED

7. MEANWHILE, AN NCNA REPORT OF THE NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP MEETING HIGHLIGHTED US DEFENSE SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S REMARKS INDICATING US INTEREST IN IMPROVING NATO'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES. AN APPROVING NCNA REPORT ON THE

US-SPAIN TREATY CITED THE SECRETARY AS INDICATING THE NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD MOVE SPAIN CLOSER TO THE ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (NCNA, JANUARY 20-27). UNCLASSIFIED

8. SOVIETS

ANTI-SOVIET INVECTIVE CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL DURING THE WEEK, WITH THE FOCUS ON AFRICA (SEE PARA 10) AND ON SOVIET ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE. THE MAJOR ANTI-SOVIET PIECE FOR THE WEEK, HOWEVER, WAS A PEOPLE'S DAILY SIGNED ARTICLE JANUARY 27 ON THE DANGER OF WAR. FOLLOWING NORMAL PRC PRACTICE, THE SUPERPOWERS WERE CONSIDERED THE ONLY ONES CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING A WORLD WAR, AND THE SOVIETS WERE DEPICTED AS THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF WAR. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY CALLING THE SOVIETS PAPER TIGERS AND CLAIMS THAT THE THIRD WORLD IS "A GREAT MOTIVE FORCE PROPELLING THE WHEEL OF HISTORY." THIS SUGGESTS A POSSIBLE RETURN TO EARLIER PRC PREDICTIONS THAT REVOLUTION IS THE MAIN TREND IN THE WORLD TODAY (NCNA, JANUARY 22-27).

9. TAIWAN

TWO NCNA REPORTS (WHICH HAVE BEEN PROMINENTLY CARRIED BY PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPERS IN HONG KONG) HAVE FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEMS OF TAIWAN. THE FIRST CITED CHIANG CHING-KUO'S ASSERTIONS IN A YEAR-END SPEECH THAT THE PAST YEAR HAD BEEN /MOST PAINFUL AND DIFFICULT" BUT THAT THE NEW YEAR WOULD BE "EVEN MORE DIFFICULT." NCNA COMMENTED THAT "LIKE A SMALL BOAT FLOUNDERING ON A STORMY SEA UNDER OVERCAST SKIES, THE CHIANG CLIQUE MAY ANY MINUTE NOW BE CAPSIZED," BUT THE CLEAR IMPLICATION IS THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO TAIWAN'S OWN "SHARPENING CONTRADICTIONS AND MOUNTING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DIFFICULTIES." BOLSTERING THIS CASE, THE ARTICLES HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THE PROBLEMS OF TAIWAN'S "COLONIAL" ECONOMY AND POLICY OF "FAWNING" ON AN
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UNNAMED "FOREIGN POWER," AS WELL AS ELECTION FRAUDS AND ALLEGED "WAVERING AND DISSENSION" IN THE ARMY AND ADMINISTRATION. ONE REPORT ALSO CONTENDED THAT PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR THE US ON THE "PRETEXT" OF UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT, MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK IN A VEILED ATTACK CHARGED THAT CHIANG CHING-KUO WAS "UNTRUSTWORTHY." IT ADDED THAT SEVERAL TAIWAN "AMBASSADORS" REFUSED TO RETURN HOME, AND RANKING OFFICIALS HAVE SENT THEIR MONEY AND CHILDREN ABROAD AND MADE PREPARATIONS FOR A FUTURE FLIGHT (NCNA, JANUARY 26 AND 29).
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10. AFRICA

IN ADDITION TO CALLING ATTENTION TO AFRICAN AND PARTICULARLY

ZAIRIAN DISPLEASURE WITH SOVIET ACTIONS, PRC MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO GENERATE A PLETHORA OF VITUPERATIVE COMMENTARY ON MOSCOW'S RELATIONS WITH THE AFRICAN NATIONS AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. AN AUTHORITATIVE PEOPLE'S DAILY "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE OF JANUARY 21 EXPRESSED CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS BEFORE QUICKLY MOVING ON TO BLAST THE SOVIETS FOR STEPPING UP ARMED INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND SEEKING ATTAINMENT OF THEIR "CRIMINAL AIMS" BY THREATS AND INTIMIDATION. A SUBSEQUENT CORRESPONDENT ARTICLE EQUATED MOSCOW'S SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WITH NEO-COLONIALISM AND CONTENDED THAT THE SOVIETS' "NEW TACTIC" IS TO UTILIZE MERCENARIES AS IT SEEKS TO TURN ANGOLA INTO ITS BASE FOR EXPANSION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT (NCNA, JANUARY 21-27). UNCLASSIFIED

11. SOUTHEAST ASIA

NCNA JANUARY 25 REPORTED THE MEETING OF PRC VICE PREMIER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND PEKING RESIDENT, THAKIN BA THEIN TIN, WHO EARLIER RECEIVED RATHER LENGTHY FILM COVERAGE AT A PEKING MEMORIAL EVENT FOR PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. ON THE OTHER HAND, PEKING CONTINUES TO INDICATE AN INTEREST IN IMPROVING STATE RELATIONS WITH SEA COUNTRIES. PRC MEDIA HAVE CARRIED APPROVING REPORTS ON THE RECENT THAI AND SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTERS' MEETING

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AND INDICATED SUPPORT FOR GREATER REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS. MEANWHILE, WITH THE INAUGURATION OF A PEKING-PHNUM PENH AIR LINK THIS WEEK, CHINA HAS MOVED TO STRENGTHEN ITS OWN TIES WITH CAMBODIA (NCNA, JANUARY 21-27 AND PEKING BROADCAST IN THAI OF JANUARY 18). UNCLASSIFIED CROSS

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